

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-09

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, PBOR, SOPN, CA

SUBJ: NEWSPAPER COLUMN CALLS OTTAWA'S VIEW OF CANADA-U.S.
MARITIME BOUNDARY TALKS UNREALISTIC

1. IN AN EDITORIAL PAGE COLUMN JANUARY 23 DATED IN WASHINGTON, BOGDEN KIPLING WROTE THAT WITH THE CLOCK RUNNING OUT ON SPECIAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON OVER MARITIME BOUNDARIES, THERE IS A DISPARITY OF VIEWS IN THE TWO CAPITALS ON THE PROGRESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. ACCORDING TO KIPLING, THE STATE DEPARTMENT "SAYS THE DISPUTE IS SERIOUS AND, REALISTICALLY, A THIRD PARTY MAY HAVE TO SETTLE IT. OTTAWA PROCLAIMS 'GOOF PROGRESS' AS IF PAST FAILURE TO BREAK THE DEADLOCK WERE A CREDIBLE BASIS FOR HOPE."

2. KIPLING EXPLAINED THAT THE AMERICAN SPECIAL NEGOTIATOR'S AUTHORITY LAPSES ON JAN. 1 AND THERE IS NO ASSURANCE THAT CONGRESS WILL EXTEND EITHER SUCH AUTHORITY OR THE INTERIM BILATERAL AGREEMENT ON THE ISSUE MADE IN 1977.

3. KIPLING WROTE THAT OTTAWA IS ONCE AGAIN "LOOKING
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AT CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES." HE CITED INSTANCES WHERE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ALLAN MACEACHEN AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DAN JAMIESON, BOTH MARITIMERS, HAVE MADE STATEMENTS REGARDING PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. CONTRARY TO SUCH STATEMENTS, KIPLING QUOTED THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION OF JUNE 1977 WHICH "HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED"

THAT IF "AGREEMENT ON ACCEPTABLE TERMS CANNOT BE REACHED,
THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER OTHER
ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THIRD-PARTY BOUNDARY ABJUDICATION
OR ARBITRATION IN ORDER TO AVOID SERIOUS FRICTION IN OUR
RELATIONS." Kipling observed that not only is the issue
of oil and natural gas significant but that "the
Americans are serious about protecting their fish stocks"
and U.S. fishermen are believed have enough clout to
block approval of the treaty that "sells out" their
interests to Canada. Kipling suggested that the
case may well land before the International Court of
Justice.
Diggins

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